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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, August 26,
1824, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Oak Hill, Augt. 26. 1824

Dear Sir

The death of Dr. Foushee has forced on me very reluctantly the appointment of some person to fill his place, in the p. office at Richmond. I feel this, from the number of applicants, several of whom are particular friends, but more especially from the interest which I know you take in favor of Col. B. Peyton, who is now with me, & the distress it give me to reject any of them. I mentioned to you on a former occasion, on an intimation from you, in favor of Col. Peyton, the claims of Govr. Preston, and the calculation I was apprized he made on this office without any special pledge from me at the time, in case the vacancy should occur during my service. The circumstances on which he relied were these. He had been severely wounded in an action on the northern frontier in the late war, his thigh being broken, & the enemy

pressing & he retiring on a litter, he was thrown from it, & his thigh broken again. As soon as he could be brought home, he was taken by his brother & brought to my house in Washington, where we had much conversation, relative to his situation & circumstances, relative to his situation & circumstances, as well as on mine, & on which I gave him

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assurance of my good offices for any object which he might have in view. This was glanc'd at. I was then in the dept of State. I had a hope at the time of our communication, that some other provision might have been made for him and that such would have been my situation, in other respects, as to leave me at liberty, to perform what would have been very gratifying to me, a compliance with your wishes. The case is however different, & under circumstances which will I trust be satisfactory to you. It is proper for me further to add, in profound confidence, that among the other applications, one has been made by a person of great consideration, respecting whom in competition with any other person I cannot consult you. This forms another difficulty which would

be felt, if Col. Preston was out of the question. I shall treat Co. Peyton with every degree of kindness, & communicate with him freely on the subject of his visit.

With very great respect & sincere regard I an your friend James Monroe

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